| | 1996-97 | 1997-98 | 1998-99 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Manipur | 05.00 | 05.00 | 05.00 |
| Tripura | 04.96 | 05.00 | 05.00 |
| Uttar Pradesh | 08.90 | 10.00 | 05.00 |
| West Bengal | 09.17 | 10.00 | 10.00 |

(b) The funds have been utilised for the programmes/activities provided under the scheme. Measures such as (i) periodical progress reports (ii) fields visits and (iii) annual review workshops are taken to improve the implementation.

**Inadequate arrangement to protect people residing near atomic power plants**

†1557. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state;

(a) whether it is a fact that there is no adequate scientific arrangement in most of the atomic power plants in India to protect the people residing in and around from radioactive radiation;

(b) if so, the number of casualties, so far, as a result of this deadly radiation; and

(c) what steps have been taken by Government to give compensation to such victims?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

**Passport system for Nepalese**

1558. SHRI V. P. DURAISAMY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are contemplating to introduce passport system to the Nepalese coming to India and *vice-versa* for Indians going to Nepal;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) whether it is a fact that terrorists and smugglers are using this route very often to carry out anti-Indian activities;

(c) what steps Government are taking to check unauthorised persons, including Nepalese from entering India; and

(d) whether Government getting co-operation from Nepal Government to check these incidents and whether Government propose to discuss this issue with Nepal Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) At the third meeting of the India-Nepal Joint Working Group on Border Management held in Kathmandu from February 1—3, 2000, the two sides discussed the possibility of introducing a passport system, without the requirement of visa, for the purpose of identification of nationality of Indian and Nepalese citizens travelling by air between the two countries. Till such time that the modalities for the operationalisation of this system are firmed up, it was agreed to scrutinise and reduce the type of photo-identification documents that would be valid for air travel and notify each other of the revised list of such documents.

(b) to (d) The India-Nepal border has historically been an open border with a visa-free travel regime. In view of the recent instances of misuse of this open border for staging anti-India activities, the concerned agencies of His Majesty's Government of Nepal and the Government of India remain in regular touch, both directly and through bilateral institutional mechanism, such as the Joint Working Group on Border Management and Home Secretary level talks. Concrete measures and cooperation on security issues are discussed, reviewed and followed up at these meetings. SeveraLmeasures have been taken to enhance cooperation with Nepal, particularly with regard to implementing effective border management. Efforts have been made by both sides to jointly coordinate measures, including stepping up vigil along the contiguous border districts of India and Nepal, to prevent misuse of the open India-Nepal border for activities directed against India. On their part, His Majesty's Government of Nepal have assured that their territory would not be used for activities inimical to India's interest and have been extending their cooperation to the Government of India in this regard.

**INDO-US joint working group to combat terrorism**

†1559. SHRI SWARAJ KAUSHAL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.